

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are not rendered obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Accordingly, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues, or believes that some or all of the claims are not in condition for allowance, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned to schedule a telephone Examiner Interview before any further actions on the merits.

The applicants will now address each of the issues raised in the outstanding Office Action.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,049,524 ("the Fukushima patent") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0191547 ("the Akyol publication"). Since these claims have been canceled, this ground of rejection is rendered moot.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Fukushima patent in view of the Akyol publication, and in further view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0021675 ("the Feldman publication"). Since this claim has been canceled, this ground of rejection is rendered moot.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Fukushima patent in view of the Akyol publication, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,590,867 ("the Ash patent"). Since this claim has been canceled, this ground of rejection is rendered moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-28 and 30 are allowed.

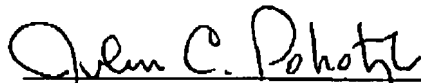
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments which cancel all rejected claims, such that only allowed claims are pending, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the applicants request that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

Any arguments made in this amendment pertain *only* to the specific aspects of the invention *claimed*. Any claim amendments or cancellations, and any arguments, are made *without prejudice to, or disclaimer of*, the applicant's right to seek patent protection of any unclaimed (e.g., narrower, broader, different) subject matter, such as by way of a continuation or divisional patent application for example.

Respectfully submitted,

June 4, 2007


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June 4, 2007

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